

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02099 020233Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 SP-02 AID-05 /035 W
-----083276 020811Z /11

R 011200Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6113
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 2099

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, PK, IN
SUBJECT: AGHA SHAHI TO VISIT INDIA

REF: ISLAMABAD 1387

1. GOP ADVISOR ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AGHA SHAHI TOLD AMBASSADOR
FEBRUARY 28 THAT HE PLANS TO VISIT NEW DELHI APRIL 15.
SHAHI DID NOT SAY HOW LONG HE WOULD STAY BUT SAID THAT
THE OFFICIAL REASON FOR HIS VISIT WAS TO RE-OPEN TALKS ON
THE SALAL DAM, A FOLLOW-ON TO INDIAN FONMIN'S VISIT TO
ISLAMABAD (REFTEL). SHAHI TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT IN FACT,
THE MAJOR REASON FOR HIS VISIT WAS TO SEE WHAT POSSIBLE ISSUES
COULD BE COVERED DURING CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL ZIA'S
PORPOSED VISIT TO NEW DELHI. SHAHI SEEMED SKEPTICAL
THAT ZIA VISIT WOULD BE USEFUL, CITING REMARK ALLEGEDLY
MADE BY PRIMIN DESAI TO VISITING PAK AGRICULTURAL ADVISER
AMIR MOHAMMED TO EFFECT THAT PAKISTAN DOESN'T NEED TO
ACQUIRE ANY ARMS BECAUSE INDIAN INTENTIONS ARE SO BENIGN.
SHAHI WANTS TO BE SURE ZIA VISIT WOULD GO SMOOTHLY,
WOULD ACHIEVE SOME POSITIVE RESULTS, AND WOULD AVOID
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BACKLASH FROM OVERSENSITIVE PAKISTANI POLITICIANS.

2. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION INDIAN AMB BAJPAI TOLD AMB HE
DOUBTED NEED FOR A VISIT BY ZIA, PREFERRING NOT TO RUN
ANY RISKS OF ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS FROM VOLATILE PAKISTANI
POLITICIANS AND PRESS AND HAS SO INFORMED DELHI. BAJPAI ALSO POINTED
OUT THERE WAS NO WAY TO BE SURE WHAT PRIMIN DESAI MIGHT SAY OFF THE

CUFF TO ZIA THAT COULD HAVE EFFECT OF SPOILING PRESENT ATMOSPHERE
OF RAPPRMDHEMENT IN WAKE OF INDIAN FONMIN'S SUCCESSFUL
FORAY. EVEN SALAL DAM AGREEMENT COULD EASILY AWAIT SOME
OTHER OCCASION, HE THOUGHT. PERHAPS SHAHI AND ZIA MIGHT
REACH SIMILAR CONCLUSION. HUMMEL

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